THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Overseas Economic cooperation Fund of the Government of Japan have entered into a loan agreement with the Government of India on 15th December 1988 for financial assistance to the tune of 9.244 billion Japanese Yen for development of infrastructural facilities along identified Buddhist Travel Circuit in U. P. and Bihar. Major components of the project are strengthening and improvement of National and State Highways, landscaping, water and electricity supply, telecommunication facilities, setting up of wayside amenities etc.

Government have also entered into a loan agreement with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of the Government of Japan on 9-1-1992 for loan assistance to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen for conservation and Development of Ajanta and Ellora in the State of Maharashtra. Main components of the project are strengthening of State Highways, upgradation of Aurangabad airport, afforestation, augmentation of water supply and sewerage facilities etc.

(c) No external assistance has been sanctioned for Development of Buddhist centres in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Losses in IATA

1926. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Airlines may suffer $ 2.4 billion losses this year, says IATA" as reported in the Economic Times dated 4th November, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the IATA in its annual report has warned Govrenment of the losses worth $ 2.4 billion during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details of the points mentioned in the report of IATA; and

(d) the steps Government proposed to take to bring down losses during the remaining months of the financial year?

THE MNISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The IATA in its Annual report 1993 has observed that while the world airlines are together likely to make an operating profit during the current year, they may possibly suffer a net loss of USD 2.4 billion after accounting for interest and other liabilities.

(c) The report observes that prolonged recession, increased; unemployment and cost consciousness in all sectors of the economy, have accelerated a market shift to lower fares. This has resulted in elimination of marginal operations and concentration on core business, changes in the product profile and shifts in strategic position through mergers and alliances, etc.

(d) Air India had made a profit of Rs. 145.89 crores in 1991-92 and Rs. 333.14 crores in 1992-93. It was ranked sixth in terms of profits by the Air Transport World amongst the top 25 airlines of the world during 1992. Air India is expected to make a profit of Rs. 145 crores in 1993-94 as per budget estimates.

In order to reduce its losses, Indian Airlines has taken such measures as rationalisation of routes and schedules, increased utilisaton of existing fleet, operations to more international sectors and reduction in maintenance and administrative expenses.

Fiscal relief to airlines

1927. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has sought Cabinet's approval for the fiscal reliefs for both State-owned and private airlines;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) at what stage of consideration the proposal stands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.